

1 ***Council Meeting***
2 ***Minutes***
3 ***December 11, 2006***
4

5 *A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County,*
6 *New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:50 pm*
7

8 Mayor Cherchi called the meeting to order.
9

10 Mayor Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman President Puzzo led in the
11 Pledge of Allegiance.
12

13 ***Council Present:*** *Mayor Cherchi, Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani*
14 *Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo*
15

16 ***Council Absent:*** *none*

17 ***Also Present:*** *Council Elect, Choi, Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin,*
18 *Borough Attorney, Labor Counsel Karen Murray*
19

20 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**
21

22 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin
23 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.
24

25 Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exit.
26

27 **PRESENTATION**
28

29 Chief Ziegler reported on the on going investigation into the recent graffiti incidents. .
30 Chief Ziegler also reported on status of the communications equipment. Mayor Cherchi
31 inquired about bringing police candidates before the Council for interview for the
32 February 4, 2007 class at the Police Academy. Councilwoman Heveran asked if the
33 Police Commission has interviewed any of the candidates. Chief Ziegler stated that the
34 Police Commission has not interviewed the candidates. A discussion followed on whether
35 the Governing Body should interview all five candidates or have the Police Commission
36 conduct the interviews. A discussion was held regarding conducting of background
37 checks on the candidates. Councilman Ryan recommended hiring someone for the
38 February 4th class and start the full round of background checks, if the individual does not
39 meet all the criteria of the Borough has that stipulated then the Borough has cause for
40 termination. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed the Police Commission would
41 interview the candidates and make its recommendation to the Governing Body.
42

43 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
44

45 No one spoke
46

47 **RESOLUTIONS**

48
49 Resolution 06-280 through 06-282 – Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve
50 Resolution 06-280-06-282, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote;
51 Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.
52 Resolutions approved.

53
54 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE:**

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56 Introduction of Ordinance 22-06 entitled:

57
58 **WHEREAS, CHAPTER 290 OF THE BOROUGH OF LEONIA’S LAND USE**
59 **CODE, TITLED, “ZONING”**

60
61 **Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by titled**

62 A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Puzzo to
63 introduce Ordinance 22-06.

64 Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo
65 voted yes. Ordinance 22-06 introduced.

66
67 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 68 a.) Fort Lee Road Status - Councilman Raucci brought the Governing Body up to
69 date on the drainage project on Fort Lee Road and Broad Avenue.

70
71 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 72 a.)- Meeting Dates for 2007 – Mayor Cherchi explained why he put the dates on the
73 agenda. The Council will discuss the dates or make any changes when necessary.

- 74
75 b.) Safe to School Grant – Mayor Cherchi explained why he put this on the agenda.
76 The Borough Clerk stated she had sent the information to the Police Department
77 for action.

- 78
79 c.) Senior Bus: Use by Additional Residents – Mayor Cherchi feels the bus is being
80 under utilized for grocery shopping and feels that it could be used by residents
81 who do not have cars. Councilwoman Heveran feels that there needs to be more
82 publicity so that the van is better utilized.

- 83
84 d.) Appointment of Municipal Housing Liaison per Ordinance – Mayor Cherchi
85 suggested that the Borough Administrator be appointed as the Housing Liaison at
86 the Reorganization Meeting.

- 87
88 e.) Bus Shelter at N/E Corner of Broad Avenue and Fort Lee Road – Mayor
89 Cherchi noted that when the sidewalks were repaired it was not sufficiently
90 anchored. The Borough Clerk reported that Mr. Saitta has been in contact
91 with New Jersey Transit to repair the bus shelter. Mayor Cherchi felt it was

up to the contractor to fix the shelter. Councilman Raucci explained that the location was changed.

- f.) Carpet for Borough Hall – The Borough Clerk explained the need to choose the carpet for Borough Hall. The Borough Clerk showed the Governing Body the choices for the carpet. The Governing Body chose “blue denim” carpet for Borough Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Borough Clerk explained the Board of Ed is looking to put a sandwich board on the “triangle”. The Governing Body approved the request.

Councilwoman Heveran brought to the attention of the Governing Body a memo from Mr. Peters regarding yard waste pick-up on Jones Road. After a lengthy discussion a memo will be sent to Mr. Saitta outlining Mr. Giblin’s opinion by the Borough Clerk.

Councilman Hawkins brought to the attention of the member of the Governing Body a letter received by a resident regarding contamination from a gas station located in Fort Lee. Councilman Hawkins would like this put on a future agenda.

Councilwoman Heveran brought up an e-mail received from Mayor Cherchi regarding a complaint from Mrs. Mastrokostas. Councilwoman Heveran referred to a memo she received from Mrs. Laura Schuster who explained the reasons for the delay in the permits being issued.

Councilman Raucci reported that the Ambulance Corps would like to hire a per-diem EMT. The Borough Clerk will meet with Mr. Tappen from the Ambulance Corps and go over the procedure with him.

Councilman Raucci referred to a letter from Birdsall regarding the Cumberland Farms Project. Councilman Raucci referred to Mr. Giblin regarding the memo. Mr. Giblin explained to the Governing Body the memo.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Barbara Marchant, 128 Spring Street – Commended the job being done by the DPW Superintendent and his crew regarding leaf clean-up on Spring Street. There is a problem however, when it rains if the DPW is not there fast enough there is flooding. Ms. Marchant also spoke about Carolanne Court when they snow plow the parking lot they push snow into Spring Street. Councilwoman Heveran advised Ms. Marchant to call the police it is an enforcement issue. Ms. Marchant inquired about the sewer repair and repaving scheduled for Spring Street? Council President explained that the Borough has applied for an infrastructure loan from the DEP.

138 Katherine Mastrokostas, 46 Hawthorne Terrace – Clarified the letter she sent
139 regarding the Café. Mrs. Mastrokostas stated that on behalf of the Merchants
140 Association the process needs to be made easier. Councilman Raucci explained
141 much of the regulations are state statutes and they require strict adherence for
142 obvious reasons.
143

144 **CLOSED SESSION (RESOLUTION U)**
145

146 The following items were discussed in Closed Session; PBA Grievance; White Collar
147 Grievance; Lane Issue; Building Department – Review of Reports Submitted for the year;
148 What should be Personal & Confidential; Contaminated Sites
149

150 A motion to go into closed was made by Council President Puzzo, seconded by
151 Councilwoman Heveran. All in favor.
152

153 Council President Puzzo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman
154 Heveran. All in favor; none opposed.
155

156 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned
157 at 10:30pm
158

159 Respectfully submitted,
160

161

162

163 Fran Lehmann

164 Borough Clerk